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09/837,047	04/18/2001	Roger Everette Sanders	343355600028	9203

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EXAMINER

ROSWELL, MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2004

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/837,047

Applicant(s)

SANDERS ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Roswell

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-12 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sheffield et al (U.S. Patent 5,937,415), hereinafter Sheffield.

Regarding claims 1 and 12, Sheffield teaches providing a first control that operates within a graphical user interface (the main windows for performing major activities of an application, at col. 10, lines 60-62), manipulating the first control to access a second control that includes data records taken from a database (providing controls within the main window for displaying or manipulating data, at col. 11, lines 10-15, where data may be retrieved through SQL statements, taught at col. 6, lines 44-47), and modifying at least one of the records through use of the second control (taught as the ability to manipulate data values, at col. 11, lines 14-15).

Regarding claim 2, Sheffield teaches storing modified data records in a database, taught as the ability of a client to store data in one or more database tables, at col. 6, lines 21-23.

Regarding claim 3, Sheffield teaches a pop-up window that provides a menu of operations configured to perform actions on a selected data record within the second control,

taught as the use of popup windows for providing additional services to support the user's activities, at col. 10-11, lines 66-67 and 1-3.

Regarding claims 4 and 16, Sheffield shows the second control configured to display data records from a data source consisting of a database, record source, or dynamic data record generator, or combinations of the three, taught as the ability to retrieve data from one or more database tables and records at col. 6, lines 21-27. Furthermore, Sheffield teaches dynamic data record generation by allowing a user to manipulate data records dynamically, at col. 11, lines 14-15.

Regarding claims 5-7, Sheffield teaches adding and deleting new data records to a database from the second control, taught as the client's ability to insert new rows, delete existing rows, or modify data records in a database table, at col. 6, lines 44-47.

Regarding claims 8-9, Sheffield shows in Fig. 13A the proximate indication of a selection status of a selected data record, as the highlighting of different user data selections.

Regarding claim 10, Sheffield teaches the selection and modification as a group of multiple data records, taught as the joining of two tables in combination with the previously shown ability to manipulate data records, at col. 15, lines 50-56.

Regarding claim 11, Sheffield shows in Fig. 13A the indication of a selection status of a selected data record, as the highlighting of different user data selections.

Regarding claim 15, Sheffield teaches providing status selection interface items associated with displayed data records, taught as the use of controls such as check boxes and radio buttons for holding information for end users, at col. 11, lines 10-16.

Regarding claim 17, Sheffield teaches providing a first control that operates within a graphical user interface (the main windows for performing major activities of an application, at col. 10, lines 60-62), manipulating the first control to access a second control that includes data records taken from a database (providing controls within the main window for displaying or manipulating data, at col. 11, lines 10-15, where data may be retrieved through SQL statements, taught at col. 6, lines 44-47), and a selection manipulable interface item associated with a data record that allows a user to perform data operations on the selected item, taught as the highlighting of different user data selections in Fig. 13A and the previously shown ability to manipulate data records.

Regarding claim 18, Sheffield teaches providing checkbox interface items associated with displayed data records, taught as the use of controls such as check boxes and radio buttons for holding information for end users, at col. 11, lines 10-16.

Regarding claim 19, Sheffield shows accessing database items through SQL commands, taught as the client's retrieval of data through SQL commands to a server, at col. 6, lines 38-41.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheffield and Torres (U.S. Patent No. 5,317,687).

In regards to claim 13, Sheffield has been shown to teach a graphical user interface comprising a first control, second control, and a plurality of modifiable data items in said second control.

While Sheffield teaches such a method, the reference fails to explicitly incorporate an "overview selection status box" that indicates whether any of the data items are selected when the second control is hidden from the user.

Torres, however, discloses a graphical user interface complete with an overview selection status box (Figure 3 and Figure 4A-E).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the overview selection status box of Torres into the interface of Sheffield. By utilizing a representation of selections in a single graphical metaphor as described by Torres in combination with the graphical user interface of Sheffield, one would obtain an interface including an overview selection status box.

The motivation to do so is given by Torres, who states, "it is therefore one object of the present invention to represent a group of menu items in terms of a single graphical metaphor for that group" (Column 2, Lines 2-4). Torres gives further motivation when disclosing "an icon evocative of an arrangement of items permitting direct manipulation techniques for

rearrangement of the group and selection of particular items from the group" (Column 2, Lines 10-14).

In regards to claim 14, Bowden et al. have been shown to teach a graphical user interface comprising a first control, second control, and a plurality of modifiable data items in said second control.

While Sheffield teaches such a method, the reference fails to explicitly incorporate a "tri-state overview selection status box" that indicates whether any of the data items are selected when the second control is hidden from the user.

Torres, however, discloses a graphical user interface complete with an overview selection status box capable of indicating multiple states (Figure 3 and Figure 4A-E).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the multiple state selection box of Torres into the interface of Sheffield. By utilizing a representation of selections in a single graphical metaphor as described by Torres in combination with the graphical user interface of Bowden et al., one would obtain an interface including a tri-state overview selection status box or multi-state overview selection box.

The motivation to do so is given by Torres, who states, "it is therefore one object of the present invention to represent a group of menu items in terms of a single graphical metaphor for that group" (Column 2, Lines 2-4). Torres gives further motivation when disclosing "an icon evocative of an arrangement of items permitting direct manipulation techniques for rearrangement of the group and selection of particular items from the group" (Column 2, Lines 10-14). Torres also discloses description of the many states of his representation when stating, "Fig. 4a depicts a situation where no options have been selected" (Column 4, Lines 17-18), "Fig. 4c depicts in pictorial form a situation where icon ring 48 is selected and one option from stack

54 has been selected" (Column 4, Lines 27-29), and "Fig. 4d depicts a situation where two options have been selected while the icon ring itself remains selected" (Column 4, Lines 34-35).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3 and 5-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Roswell whose telephone number is (703) 305-5914. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 6:00 M-F.



If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael Roswell  
6/9/2004



CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER